

## Newspaper Writing Tips / Comments

- Short paragraphs (2-3 sentences per paragraph)
- Third person POV (use *I* or *we* only if in a quote, as in *Ivan Stilanovich, a resident of St. Petersburg, said that he looked forward to Lenin's return from Switzerland so that the war with Germany would come to an end. "Kerensky is horrible leader," Stilanovich said, "and it is time for a change."*)
- Attribute information that isn't well or generally known (*According to . . .* or *Churchill said that . . .*)
- Use both indirect and direct quotes (see the second bullet on this list)
- Be objective; only show a favoritism or bias through those who "speak" in your story, those you quote.
- Use the inverted pyramid format -- most important, recent info at the beginning of the story.
- Use names that sound real for the country and time period; give people titles or jobs.
- Don't use questions in your writing . . . *Why did the war begin?*
- For dates, just use a reference like *June 23, 1915*, not *June 23<sup>d</sup>, 1915*.
- No one called it World War I at that time; use the *Great War* or "the current conflict."
- Don't write "When asked . . ."
- Study how to write quotes with attribution. For example, here is how you should write:
  - Jean Chevalier, a French infantry commander, said that the trench foot at the Marne was particularly noxious. "We suffered greatly," he said. "The rats, the mud, all of that together, just made the existing physical maladies such as trench foot even worse."